

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, despite the fact that we face persistent unemployment and slow economic growth, Republicans would rather waste time with debt ceiling disapproval resolutions and risk default again than come up with real answers to our most pressing problems. Democrats want to pass the American Jobs Act right now to get people back to work. We want to offer payroll tax breaks to small businesses that create jobs, not continue corporate welfare to major oil companies. We want to create infrastructure banks to repair and rebuild our communities, not delay these highway projects to score political points.

Monday, in Politico, a senior Republican aide was quoted as saying he "didn't want to hand Obama a win" on jobs legislation. It's clear that Republicans care more about beating the President than beating unemployment. The jobless of this country cannot wait another 14 months. Pass the American Jobs Act today.

COMMONSENSE SOLUTIONS FOR JOBS

(Mr. FLORES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, our country is facing record deficits, high unemployment, and stagnant economic growth. Yet President Obama is doubling down on the triple threat of taxation, regulation, and spending that is crushing job growth. This week, the President has been touting his so-called "jobs plan." But his detrimental policies have forced a power generation company in Texas to close five facilities and sacrifice 500 middle class jobs. The impact of this EPA shutdown will reduce generating capacity in Texas by 1,300 megawatts, a move which the Electric Reliability Council of Texas says could spur future power outages.

These regulations hurt middle class jobs and harm electric reliability in Texas with no scientific evidence that power generation in Texas is causing nonattainment of clear air standards in other States. Not only are this administration's disastrous policies preventing future job creation; they're destroying existing jobs. Instead of proposing the same failed idea that Washington can create jobs, we need to get Washington out of the way and rely on commonsense Main Street solutions that put Americans back to work.

NASA ANNOUNCEMENT ON SLS

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, this morning, NASA announced the design of a new space launch system which will be the basis for future exploration beyond low Earth orbit. It is a critical step, but one among many we need to take. Although I am pleased this deci-

sion was made, it is long overdue since it was mandated by the NASA authorization bill passed in the last Congress. This announcement combines existing technologies while enabling new ones, all the while attempting to maintain the most skilled and dedicated workforce in existence in human space flight. NASA's plan still lacks the destination focus I would like to see, and we must be diligent in keeping costs manageable, especially in these difficult economic times. But the investment in our Nation's space program enables men and women like those at the Stennis Space Center to do what they do best—test rocket engines for space flight.

America is the leader in human space flight. Today's decision helps continue that leadership role.

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DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, 2 weeks ago, Hurricane Irene ravaged the east coast, including the State of New Jersey. Earlier this year, tornados leveled parts of the Midwest, and now Texas is experiencing one of the worst wildfires in its history. Furthermore, on the heels of Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee hit New Jersey, causing more damage and forcing more people from their homes. Homes have been destroyed, businesses are suffering, and many areas are still covered in water.

While many major disaster declarations have been made, the availability of Federal assistance remains uncertain. Today, I rise to ask my colleagues to work in a bipartisan manner to immediately pass emergency disaster relief legislation to support recovery efforts. Communities across the country have witnessed unthinkable destruction and endured great loss, and it is the Federal Government's responsibility to replenish the Disaster Relief Fund to ensure that these communities receive help in their time of need.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting supplemental disaster relief. We must come together now to provide disaster assistance to these devastated areas.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOBS BILL

(Mr. SOUTHERLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great disappointment in the President's most recent proposed bill to create jobs. I was hopeful that the President would offer a commonsense, pro-growth agenda. Unfortunately, the House continues to stand ready without a proposal that is acceptable.

But this administration continues to offer the same tired, Big Government

proposals. One example is the section that creates, in 17 pages, a wholly government-owned corporation—that's right, government-owned corporation—complete with a chief financial officer, chief risk officer, chief compliance officer, chief operations officer, chief lending officer, general counsel, board of directors, and billions of dollars in new taxpayer money.

It appears once again that this administration is more focused on growing government than it is on growing jobs.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker and Members, jobs are the issue, and the American Jobs Act is the solution that this House should consider on the floor immediately. This bill will help reverse the flow of jobs overseas and will help rebuild the manufacturing base in America, providing good jobs for hardworking Americans.

Make It In America creates jobs in America. This bill builds America. The long-term FAA reauthorization will create 150,000 jobs, and reauthorizing the surface transportation bill will support 134,000 projects around the country, 5,000 mass transit projects, and nearly 1 million jobs over the next year. The national infrastructure bank proposal would combine public and private resources to build, rebuild, and repair the country's key infrastructure.

This bill also helps create jobs through the Tax Code. The proposal cuts the payroll tax in half for 98 percent of businesses on their first \$5 million in payroll; it offers a \$4,000 tax credit to employers for hiring long-term unemployed workers—get them on the tax rolls and not on the unemployment rolls—and it starts a "Returning Heroes" hiring tax credit, between \$5,600 and \$9,600 for firms that hire unemployed veterans.

We have the responsibility to help our country climb out of this tough economy, and this bill is a proposal that deserves bipartisan support to help accomplish that.

REGULATIONS DON'T CREATE JOBS

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the chorus of Americans asking Washington to stop damaging the economy with job-killing regulations. Small businesses don't thrive when they're hit with additional burdens from the Federal Government.

As unbelievable as it sounds, some in this body actually believe that new regulations create jobs because they force businesses to hire people to comply with the new mandates. Madam